

NEW PUBLICATIONS.

PACIFIC ISLANDS.

CANNIBALS AND CONVICTS. Notes of Personal Experiences in the Western Pacific. By JULIAN THOMAS. \$1.00, pp. xlv, 408. Cassell & Co.

Mr. Thomas is an adventurous American who left his home some years ago in Australia and became connected with the colonial press. In the service of one or another newspaper he made many interesting voyages among the Pacific Islands, visiting the French penal establishment in New-Caledonia, accompanying a French expedition against the insurgent savages of that colony in 1878, investigating the "labor question" in the New-Hebrides and the Hivayal of France and England for the possession of that group, and picking up a great deal of interesting information about the character and condition of the natives and the measure in which they have been improved by contact with commerce and civilization. His book consists principally of a compilation of his newspaper letters, and has therefore the advantage of recording fresh impressions, and the disadvantage of leaving something to the distant reader many statements and descriptions which must have been perfectly clear to Australians. He writes in an easy, familiar, self-confident style, with a good deal of personal detail, and the air of an intelligent and enterprising fellow who might be a pleasant company on a tramp or a voyage. His account of convict life in New-Caledonia is meagre, and the particulars must be gathered one by one from the fourteen or fifteen chapters among which they are scattered. We infer from his statements that the physical condition of the convicts is not unduly hard, but he writes severely of the French administrative methods and the scandalous treatment of the natives, and the misconduct of French officers toward women. The privileged convicts are allowed wives selected from the prisons of Paris. Mr. Thomas was on board a transport which had brought out sixty healthy young women, most of them murderesses, to be disposed of in this manner. What sort of progeny is likely to result from such galley marriages it is easy to imagine. The state of things in the *pénales* *agricoles*, where the so-called good conduct men are allowed considerable liberty, is as bad as that of the Cities of the Plain. There are Catholic missionaries on the islands, but they labor under great disadvantages owing to the marked disdain with which they are treated by the officials.

In the New-Hebrides group the author's explorations had a particular spice of interest because there the lives of white men are highly insecure and cannibalism is still practised with more or less secrecy only a little distance from the coast. Mr. Thomas was concerned especially with the manner of "recruiting" laborers for Australia, under three years' contract, a business which has been roundly denounced as a mere modification of the slave trade. Our author obtained passage on a "labor vessel" from the New-Hebrides to Queensland, and describes the method of collecting the "recruits" and their treatment on the voyage. They ship willingly, and on the whole are not ill-treated, although the men and women are allowed to mingle as they please, and the Government regulations are habitually disregarded. The Protestant missionaries of the New-Hebrides regard the labor traders with an abhorrence which it is not difficult to account for. Mr. Thomas is wholly on the side of the traders, and he speaks of the missionaries with a prejudice which evidently impairs his judgment. One of the best known and most hotly criticised of the local labor traders is an American named Proctor, a Confederate captain who lost a leg at Chancellorsville, and in spite of his disability is an active and excellent sailor. Mr. Thomas gives him a high character. Certainly if the French should succeed in their scheme of occupying the New-Hebrides and making them a place of deportation for irreclaimable criminals, the missionaries would see reason enough to regret the mitigated evils of the present day.

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TOTAL RECEIPTS OF PRODUCE.

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2. Wheat bush.	550,000	Red flour, pax.	223
3. Malt bush.	12,930	Red rice.	223
4. Barley bush.	12,930	Cut mats, pk.	4,453
5. Corn bush.	516,000	Green peas.	218
6. Flaxseed bush.	227	Flaxseed bags	1,025
7. Green peas.	1,025	17 Butter, pax.	7,576
8. Cotton seed.	7,420	18 Butter, pax.	1,421
9. Cotton seed.	1,025	19 Butter, pax.	457
10. Cotton seed.	550	20 Butter, pax.	1,421
11. Cotton seed.	550	21 Butter, pax.	1,421
12. Cotton seed.	550	22 Butter, pax.	1,421
13. Cotton seed.	550	23 Butter, pax.	1,421
14. Cotton seed.	550	24 Butter, pax.	1,421
15. Cotton seed.	550	25 Butter, pax.	1,421
16. Cotton seed.	550	26 Butter, pax.	1,421
17. Cotton seed.	550	27 Butter, pax.	1,421
18. Cotton seed.	550	28 Butter, pax.	1,421
19. Cotton seed.	550	29 Butter, pax.	1,421
20. Cotton seed.	550	30 Butter, pax.	1,421
21. Cotton seed.	550	31 Butter, pax.	1,421
22. Cotton seed.	550	32 Butter, pax.	1,421
23. Cotton seed.	550	33 Butter, pax.	1,421
24. Cotton seed.	550	34 Butter, pax.	1,421
25. Cotton seed.	550	35 Butter, pax.	1,421
26. Cotton seed.	550	36 Butter, pax.	1,421
27. Cotton seed.	550	37 Butter, pax.	1,421
28. Cotton seed.	550	38 Butter, pax.	1,421
29. Cotton seed.	550	39 Butter, pax.	1,421
30. Cotton seed.	550	40 Butter, pax.	1,421
31. Cotton seed.	550	41 Butter, pax.	1,421
32. Cotton seed.	550	42 Butter, pax.	1,421
33. Cotton seed.	550	43 Butter, pax.	1,421
34. Cotton seed.	550	44 Butter, pax.	1,421
35. Cotton seed.	550	45 Butter, pax.	1,421
36. Cotton seed.	550	46 Butter, pax.	1,421
37. Cotton seed.	550	47 Butter, pax.	1,421
38. Cotton seed.	550	48 Butter, pax.	1,421
39. Cotton seed.	550	49 Butter, pax.	1,421
40. Cotton seed.	550	50 Butter, pax.	1,421
41. Cotton seed.	550	51 Butter, pax.	1,421
42. Cotton seed.	550	52 Butter, pax.	1,421
43. Cotton seed.	550	53 Butter, pax.	1,421
44. Cotton seed.	550	54 Butter, pax.	1,421
45. Cotton seed.	550	55 Butter, pax.	1,421
46. Cotton seed.	550	56 Butter, pax.	1,421
47. Cotton seed.	550	57 Butter, pax.	1,421